

discover oakville

We jump in the car and head towards the lake and stop at Bronte Harbour. The legendary lighthouse here has a deep history in Oakville and adds to the charm of Bronte Village. Built in 1858; the lighthouse was washed away less than 30 years later, by a fierce storm off Lake Ontario. In 1900 the second lighthouse was built and local fishermen shared the responsibility of lighting the kerosene lamp each night. Then once again a terrible three-day storm destroyed the lighthouse in 1947. Not only did it wash away the lighthouse but also the wooden pier. The third lighthouse was built, and is still standing today with a foghorn and electric light. With such an interesting and unique history, it is no wonder the lighthouse stands as a symbol of community and of Oakville.

Tony and I spend quite a bit of time here enjoying the beautiful day and watching the boats go by. As we sit on the quaint park bench, we realize what the charm of Oakville is all about.

The Village of Bronte is a great place to find unique restaurants, shopping and so much more. From its small beginnings to the changes that have passed through the village over the years, it is a pleasant mix of old and new. If you have a free day - we recommend visiting Bronte Village for a day discovering the shops, restaurants and of course, the harbour.

From here we take another lesson in history and head downtown to the Erchless Estate. Oakville Museum at Erchless Estate is a four-acre estate home and gardens set on the shores of Lake Ontario in downtown Oakville. The Museum preserves and interprets our town's history through the heritage and home of Oakville's founding family, the Chisholms. Today, visitors to the Oakville Museum can take a guided tour of Erchless, the Chisholm Family Home, (c.1858), which is authentically restored to the elegance of its 1925 appearance. This is exactly what Tony and I do. Our tour guide, Janice is very knowledgeable and tells us stories of this old mansion and of Oakville's past.

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